

if you have voted since we started over. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 44 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 277A passes. LB 437.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return 437 to Select File for a specific amendment. That amendment is found on page 1593 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is the bill that deals with the distance at which you follow a vehicle at your peril. The current language says 300 feet if it is a vehicle pulling a trailer and so forth. My amendment would make that 100 feet. It doesn't make a bad bill good. It makes it less bad and it creates a distance that a person such as a state trooper or some other law enforcement person...it gives them a distance that they can manage. It is easier to tell whether somebody is following consistently at a distance of 100 feet than 300 feet. So I am asking that you return the bill and adopt this amendment. Senator Withem agrees with the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Just to clarify, I guess I paraphrase Senator Chambers', reversing his words just a little bit. This amendment does not make a good bill bad. It is still a good bill. I guess I really have no problems with the specific length. What we are trying to do with this bill is keep the semis from bunching up following behind one another and creating a hazard for those working along the side of the road or others who may be stopped along the side of the road or trying to deal with a vision problem. Senator Chambers talked to me the other day. He thought 300 feet was too long. I could not give him a good justification for why 300 feet was the magic number. The folks I talked with that would be charged with enforcing this law indicated that they probably wouldn't ticket people 200, 250 feet. At any rate, we use the number 100 feet in other sections in the bill talking about following vehicles with flashing lights or following vehicles that are spreading sand and salt on the roads. I, personally, have no problem with